

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Jennie Foley Building  
and/or common Jennie Foley-Wieler A. Arriaga Building

**2. Location**

street & number 626-68 South Racine Avenue not for publication  
Old address: 201-03 Center Avenue  
city town CHICAGO vicinity of  
state Illinois code county code

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
district	public	occupied	agriculture
buildings; structure	private	unoccupied	commercial
site	both	work in progress	educational
object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	entertainment
	in process	yes restricted	government
	being considered	yes unrestricted	industrial
		no	military
			museum
			park
			private residence
			religious
			scientific
			transportation
			other.

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Waco Phone  
street & number 1925 North Clark Street, Lumber 707  
city town Chicago vicinity of state Illinois 60614

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse registry of deeds etc Cook County Recorder of Deeds  
street & number 118 North Clark Street  
city town Chicago state Illinois 60602

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Illinois Historic Sites  
Bureau, 2nd has this property been determined eligible? yes no  
date 1971 federal X state county local  
depository for survey records Department of Conservation  
city town Springfield state Illinois

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	original site
good	ruins	altered	moved
fair	unexposed		date

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Foley-Arrigo Building, built in 1889 for \$11,000 by Jennie Foley, is a detached brick, "double" structure, each four story entity reflecting the interior configuration of the other. With a high degree of integrity, it occupies the northwest corner site of Racine Avenue and Flournov Street on Chicago's Near West Side. The building is compatible with what remains of nearby one, two and three story period structures in scale, massing and detail, yet is distinguished by its height. If viewed from some distant perspective, it is similar in height to the Mother Cabrini Hospital, the Our Lady of Pompeii Church and Notre Dame Church within sight of the Foley-Arrigo Building to the south, southwest and west, respectively. It should be noted that the Foley-Arrigo Building faces across Racine Avenue toward the University of Illinois at Chicago campus where once stood a nineteenth century built community much like the west side of Racine Avenue.

The two primary facades, facing east (Racine Avenue) and south (Flournov Street), are of finished red face brick. Eclectic architectural detail materials include sandstone, terra cotta, stained glass, galvanized metal and cast iron. The flat roof is crowned by a deep bracketed cornice of galvanized sheet metal with patterned scroll work and dentils. On the east facade, two metal-clad bays rise from the second story to the cornice. At each level, the bays are enbanced by belt courses, dentils, Corinthian columns and panels of scroll work. The bay center window is a fixed pane with transom; each side window is a one over one double hung with transom of brilliant stained glass. At the base of each bay are recessed panels with medallions. Between the bays are one over one double hung windows. The upper sash center pane is surrounded by small colored panes.

A continuous sandstone sill joins the windows of floors two, three and four, and a belt course separates each floor. High relief terra cotta with central figure heads and scroll work is placed to the right and left of the center east facade between floors. Two single exterior doors mark the building's center, but separate entrances to the upper floor apartment units, three per side. Transoms of colored glass surrounding clear glass panels appear above the doors.

The south elevation is again red face brick. The spatial divisions of this facade are essentially two. The western half, marked by groups of three unadorned one over one double hung windows per floor, is divided from the almost uninterrupted eastern half by a three story bay, a replication of the east facade bays. Corbeled brickwork appears on the unfenestrated southeast section.

The street level commercial treatment is almost totally intact. The north storefront has a cast iron recessed entrance and lentils. There are large plate glass windows supported by the cast iron with transoms above.

Continued . .

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There has been an intrusive modernization of the south storefront with bricking in the window panels and alteration of windows and entrance. However, the corner eutback and cast iron support pillar remain.

The west and north faades are common brick. The windows are wooden double hung, and the masonry openings have sandstone sills. Wooden service porches run the full length of the west faade.

The six residential apartment interiors are characterized by marble fireplaces, large oak paneled pocket doors, intricate stained glass transoms and varnished oak woodwork.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY

Three areas of significance, architecture, commerce, and politics/government, can be attributed to the Foley-Arrigo Building.

Architecturally, it meets Criteria C, "...a building...that embod(ies) the distinctive characteristics of a type, period...." The four story commercial/residential structure maintains its integrity and is a notable example of a distinct nineteenth century Chicago architectural type, one of 12 identified by the Chicago Commission on Historical and Architectural Landmarks. Because of its height, it is an identifying feature sited on a major north/south thoroughfare (Racine Avenue), yet it marks the entrance to a charming, intact nineteenth century residential enclave to the west. In this Near West Side community where urban renewal and disinvestment have taken their toll, few like structures still exist, especially with such minimal alterations. The storefront spaces have served the commercial and present community organization needs of the adjacent neighborhood through the years. The building has been significant in the context of the commercial/residential district as well. In addition, it has been associated with the Italian-American Arrigo family since 1910. Victor A. Arrigo lived in the house from 1910 until his death in 1973. Representative Arrigo served the 20th Illinois District in the State Legislature and was noted for his contributions to anti-discrimination legislation.

### JUSTIFICATION

#### Architectural

The Foley-Arrigo Building is characteristic of the commercial/residential building type developed prior to the turn of the century to utilize the modern products and building technologies of the period.

Beginning in the 1970's in Chicago and elsewhere, commercial ground floor fronts were distinguished by the inclusion of large display windows. More display space was possible because of advances in standardization of cast iron fronts to support the expanse of plate glass.<sup>1</sup> From the simple, functional Gothic to the ornate Italianate and Queen Anne designs, the innovative storefronts emitted light and air (through transoms) into shops. Characteristic building materials ranged from brick, brick face with

<sup>1</sup>Vera Gelbloom, "Old Storefronts, 1870-1920", The Old House Journal, Vol. VI, No. 3, March, 1978, pp. 25-34.

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sandstone, to other more expensive fireproof masonry materials, required by the Chicago building code following the Chicago Fire of 1871. Decorative terra cotta, cast, wrought or galvanized iron was added to enhance oriel bays, cornices, window sills and lentils. There was either a center flush or recessed entrance flanked by shop windows, or a side or corner entrance often with cast iron pillar supports for the corner.

The Foley-Arrigo Building retains the structure, massing and detail of this building type as described in Section 7. Most notably, the mostly intact storefronts express the human scale commerce and street level interaction so characteristic of the period.

According to building permits noted in the trade journal Sanitary News in 1889, the Foley-Arrigo Building was one of a number of similarly described buildings on Racine Avenue or Center Avenue.<sup>2</sup> Four story store/flats were built at 1) Harrison and Center (6/29/89); 2) 78 Center Avenue (6/29/89); 3) 157 Center Avenue (6/29/89); 4) Center near Taylor (8/10/89); 5) 149 Center Avenue (8/10/89). Of these, only the Foley-Arrigo Building survives in this immediate area.

Commerce

Early in Chicago's development, the Illinois-Michigan Canal brought commerce and industry to the prairie city. Land adjacent to the canal was sold to pay for its construction. The Near West Side was canal land sold to entrepreneurs and industrialists who brought prosperity to investors and congestion and poverty to the working class on the West Side.

In 1889, the year the Foley-Arrigo Building was constructed, Jane Addams established Hull House Settlement House on Halsted Street, just three blocks to the east. Hull House was in the heart of the port-of-entry tenement immigrant district. Successive waves of Irish, German, Italian, Polish, Russian Jew and Greek immigrants worked in the West Side manufacturing and industrial plants. Congested conditions were the norm east of Racine Avenue. As economic conditions improved, individuals moved to the Racine Area, thus the more middle class housing stock from Racine to Ashland Avenue.

According to one long time resident, Racine Avenue was lined with family-owned businesses as well as larger manufacturing and service

<sup>2</sup>Sanitary News, June 29, 1889; August 10, 1889.

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enterprises.<sup>3</sup> In the twentieth century, the area dominated by the Foley Arrigo Building was the nucleus of the Sicilian community. Racine was a heavily travelled street where horse-drawn wagons carried produce to and from the South Water Market (Racine and 15th Street) to the Fulton Market. Many residents were employed in the produce trades, including members of the Arrigo family.

The stores and adjoining residential units were the businesses and homes for European immigrants in Chicago before and after 1900. The family shop—a grocery store, a laundry, a candy store—was located on the first floor, while living accommodations and rental flats, if the buildings were large enough, appeared above the store. The neighborhood commercial strip was the economic and social center for the immigrant group.

The Arrigo family utilized the Foley-Arrigo Building as rental and commercial space. One family member ran an ice cream/soda shop in the north shop. Other uses for the north storefront were sandwich shop, shoe shop and coffee store. The corner storefront has been used as a scale company, a cleaning shop, a candy store, a butcher shop, a grocery store and, in recent years, as a base for neighborhood services and organizing.

#### Politics/Government

Since the late nineteenth century, there has been a large Italian population on the Near West Side.<sup>4</sup> The community is known generally as "Little Italy" even today, although the general population has shrunk because of relocation and major displacement in the aftermath of the construction of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Victor A. Arrigo, born in Sicily of American citizens, was a politician closely linked to the Near West Side Italian-American community from 1908 until his death in 1973. For 63 of those years he lived in the Foley-Arrigo Building which his parents purchased in 1910.

Victor Arrigo was a lawyer who served the 20th Illinois Legislative District in the 75th, 76th, 77th and 78th General Assemblies. Representative Arrigo was best known for sponsoring anti-discrimination legislation. He received numerous community awards, the most notable being the posthumous

<sup>3</sup>Interview, Emil Polito, November 14, 1984.

<sup>4</sup>Dunbert S. Nell, *Italians in Chicago*, pp. 32-33.

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renaming of Vernon Park, just two blocks from the Foley-Arrigo Building, to Arrigo Park.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name [keyword]

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	4	5	4	8	0
Zone	Easting		Northing				

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing	

C 

--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name title Linda S. von Drzele (utilizing some information from Anthony Stephens)

Kathalie P. Voorhees Center for

organization Neigh./Comm. Improvement, UIC

date January 11, 1985

street & number 501 4344

telephone (312) 996-0671

city or town Chicago

state 11710018 60680

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

national state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*William G. Farnar*

title Deputy S.H.P.O.

date 3/21/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

date

Chief of Registration



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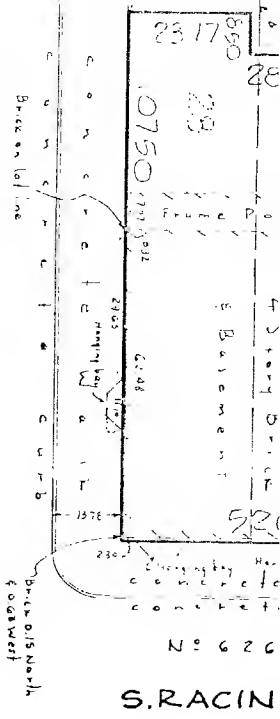
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W. FLOURNOY ST.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 County of Cook  
 BENNETT OGDON (DECEASED) Special Equality Trust I have  
 surveyed the above described premises and the plat hereon  
 drawn is a correct representation of said survey.

Given at Springfield, Ill. this 25th day of  
 May 1925  
 BY J. J. PYNNEBLY, CENTRAL SURVEYOR  
 My Comm. Expires 12/31/25  
 J. J. PYNNEBLY  
 CENTRAL SURVEYOR  
 No. 1001  
 ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYOR NO. 85-1925



— 1898 Precinct Lines  
 [ ] Areas Examined in 1907 City Homes Association Report

### 5 Near West Side Italian District, 1898 and 1901

Based on City of Chicago, Board of Election Commissioners, Nineteenth Ward Election Precincts for 1898, and Robert Hunter (for the City Homes Association), *Tenement Conditions in Chicago* (Chicago, 1901), 12-13, 55-56.

description distorted the actual situation, for although Italians represented a majority of residents in part of the area surveyed by the Association, they formed a minority element elsewhere. Furthermore, in not one block of the entire area did Italians comprise the only ethnic group.<sup>12</sup>

The Near West Side contained some of the worst housing in the city. Structures facing the street (most of them brick and three stories high) were unsoundly constructed, inadequately lighted, poorly ventilated and dangerously overcrowded. Owners and managers utilized all available space for living purposes. Each floor

Table 2  
 NEAR WEST SIDE ITALIAN DISTRICT POPULATION IN 1898, BY PRECINCT

Precinct	Race		New Italian		Total		Principal Nationalities (in 1901)
	Foreign Born	American Born	Foreign Born	American Born	Foreign Born	American Born	
1	269	121	379	668	618	784	Irish, German
2	1	3	207	690	208	605	Irish, German
3	18	2	499	481	477	481	Irish, German
14	10	11	577	471	357	684	Irish, Russian
15	25	28	276	51	11	657	Irish, Russian, Greek
16	709	471	595	317	1022	807	Irish, German
17	899	614	178	221	1025	855	Irish, German
18	583	451	185	186	912	668	Irish, German, Greek
19	844	269	571	675	953	940	German, Russian, Irish
20	212	239	664	471	866	919	Irish, Russian, German
21	124	119	825	1016	939	1155	Polish, Russian, German
30	9	3	1293	1044	1302	1647	Belorussian, Polish, German, Russian
31	68	92	491	546	557	638	Belorussian, Russian, Polish, German
34	202	162	739	811	901	1006	Russian, German, Irish
35	—	12	994	891	994	906	Russian, Belorussian, German, Irish

Source: City of Chicago, Board of Election Commissioners, *Travels in Chicago*, June 23, 1898, to June 23, 1899 (Chicago, 1903), 187-89.

CENTRAL SURVEY CO.  
 EMMETT O'DONNELL  
 544 N. LOVELAND CHICAGO, ILL. 60630  
 PHONE BR 3-5285

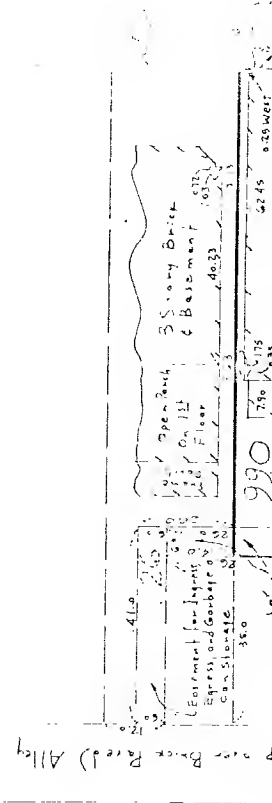
PLAT OF SURVEY

EXHIBIT 1

PARCELS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5, TAKEN AS A TRACT, EXCEPT THE WEST 25.00 FEET OF SOUTH 23.77 FEET OF SAID TRACT, ALSO EXCEPT 12.00 FEET OF SAID TRACT LING SOUTH OF THE NORTH 23.77 FEET OF SAID TRACT, ARE IN ORIGINAL SURVEY DIVISION OF BLOCK 3 OF VERMILION PARK ADDITION TO CHICAGO, IN THE SOUTH-WEST 1/4 OF SECTION 47, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2----- 24.00 FEET WIDE EGRESS AND ACCESS OVERY UPON AND ACROSS THE EAST 1.00 FEET OF THE WEST 1.00 FEET OF THE SOUTH 14.00 FEET OF LOT 26 IN SACRAMENTO SUBDIVISION OF BLOCK 3 OF VERMILION PARK ADDITION TO CHICAGO, IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 47, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 3----- AN EGRESS AND ACCESS AND CROSSING CONTAINING 5.00 FEET AND ACROSS THE EAST 41.0 FEET OF THE NORTH 6.5 FEET OF THE SOUTH 24.0 FEET OF LOT 26 IN MACALESTER SUBDIVISION ADDRESSED.



## STUDE DIRECTORY

626-28 St. Charles Street

STUDENT	Description
3	East View - To (North) of front living room, south glass, and mobile fireplace.
5	East View - Entryway of 1110s on 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor of 626 St.
6	North View - 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor street.
8	East View - Second floor, mobile glass, to, Detroit St. Lake Hospital complex.
9	North View - 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Industrial property.
13	West View - Several buildings west of 626 St. Charles Street.
14	West View - 1 <sup>st</sup> floor porch of Subject Property.
16	South View - Subject Property.
18	South and East - 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Subject Property.
20	West View - Subject Property.